

Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 EUR-10 IO-03 NSC-10 NSCE-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03 DODE-00 DPW-01

AID-10 L-02 PRS-01 USIA-04 RSR-01 /084 W

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R 031055Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5522

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 14038

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, VS

SUBJECT: MR 2 SIT REP, AUGUST 3

FOLLOWING MSG REC FROM AMCONSUL NHA TRANG ON AUG 3, ACTION
EMBASSY SAIGON INFO USDAO SAIGON CINCPAC REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO:

C O N F I D E N T I A L NHA TRANG 0744

LIMDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI VS

SUBJECT: MR 2 SIT REP, AUGUST 3

1. SECURITY SITUATION: THERE WERE NINETEEN REPORTED INCIDENTS
IN MR 2 OVER THE PAST 48 HOURS. HOSTILITIES REMAINED AT A
RELATIVELY LOW LEVEL EXCEPT IN BINH DINH AND KONTUM. THERE WERE
12 ATTACKS BY FIRE, SIX MINE INCIDENTS, AND ONE GROUND ASSAULT
(BINH DINH). AIR ACTIVITY, HOWEVER, INCREASED SHARPLY, CONTINUING
THE UPWARD TREND OF THE PAST SEVERAL DAYS. CASUALTIES ON BOTH
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SIDES DECREASED AND WOULD HAVE BEEN MUCH LIGHTER FOR THE RVNAF

HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR TWO AIR MISHAPS IN KONTUM: VC/NVA: 13 KIA:
RVNAF: 11 KIA (EIGHT IN MISHAPS) PLUS FOUR CIVILIANS; 32 WIA
(16 IN MISHAPS) PLUS 5 CIVILIANS.

2. IN KONTUM, THE 23RD DIVISION PAUSED TO CELEBRATE ITS
18TH ANNIVERSARY AUGUST 1, THOUGH THE DIVISION'S CONTINUING
FAILURE TO MAKE ANY HEADWAY AGAINST ENEMY POSITIONS WEST OF
THE CITY MUST HAVE DAMPENED SPIRITS. POLOFF THERE REPORTS
THAT SOME TACTICAL REARRANGEMENTS MAY BE EFFECTED UNDER THE
CURRENT INCREASED AIR COVER.

3. THE MOST IMPORTANT ACTION DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD
TOOK PLACE IN THE AIR. THE NUMBER OF TACTICAL AIR MISSIONS
REGION-WIDE HAS INCREASED SHARPLY DURING THE WEEK: N
JULY 30, 51 ON JULY 31, 59 ON AUGUST 1 AND 70 ON AUGUST 2.
THE MAJORITY HAVE BEEN IN KONTUM (52 OF THE 70 FLOWN ON
AUGUST 2), WHERE WE UNDERSTAND THEY ARE BEING DIRECTED
AGAINST ENEMY STRONGHOLDS WEST OF THE CITY. MISHAPS, REPORTED
WITH SOME CANDOR BY THE RVNAF, HAVE ATTENDED THE INCREASED
ACTIVITY. AN A37 CRASHED WEST OF KONTUM CITY YESTERDAY MORNING,
AND -- ACCORDING TO MR 2 NHA TRANG BRIEFING -- FOR TECHNICAL
REASONS. HOWEVER, PRELIMINARY REPORT FROM KONTUM POLOFF
SUGGESTS IT MAY HAVE BEEN SHOT DOWN. (FURTHER INFORMATION WILL
BE REPORTED WHEN AVAILABLE). ALSO ON AUGUST 2, A CLOSE AIR
SUPPORT MISSION 10 KM WEST OF KONTUM CITY MISTAKENLY HIT A
POSITION OF THE 1/244TH REGT, KILLING SEVEN FRIENDLY TROOPS
AND WOUNDING 16.

4. THE PHU CAT AIRFIELD IN BINH DINH WAS ROCKETED TWICE ON
AUGUST 2: 14 ROUNDS OF 122MM EARLY IN THE MORNING, FOLLOWED
BY FIVE MORE IN THE EVENING. THOUGH WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE THAT
THIS ACTION IS RELATED TO THE INCREASED NUMBER OF VNAF STRIKES
IN KONTUM AND BINH DINH, WE NOTE THAT THE A-37'S NORMALLY USED
IN THESE PROVINCES ARE BASED AT PHU CAT.

5. PROV REP IN QUANG DUC REPORTS INFORMATION FROM A POLICE
SPECIAL BRANCH SOURCE THAT 4,000 NVA HAVE ASSEMBLED AT BU KRAK
(YU 495.561), THE ONE FIXED MONTAGNARD HAMLET UNDER ENEMY
CONTROL IN THE OLD BU PRANG AREA. THE PROVINCE CHIEF IS
SKEPTICAL OF THAT ESTIMATE, BUT AGREES THE CONCENTRATION IS
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THERE. SMALL ENEMY RECONNAISSANCE UNITS HAVE BEEN NOTED IN
THE BU BON (YU 681.509) AREA FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE
CEASE-FIRE, INDICATING THAT AN ATTEMPT MAY BE MADE TO PUSH THE
RVNAF STILL FARTHER AWAY FROM THIS BORDER AREA (SEE NHA TRANG 0712).

6. SENATE "OPPOSITION" SLATES ARE GETTING SHORT SHRIFT FROM
QUANG DUC OFFICIALS. ONLY YHDAN CHU AND WHITE ELEPHANT CANDIDATES
WERE TREATED TO A HELICOPTER TOUR OF THE DISTRICTS BY THE

PROVINCE CHIEF ON AUGUST 1. AS OF AUGUST 2, POSTERS FOR ONLY
THESE TWO SLATES HAD APPEARED IN THE CAPITAL OF GIA NHGIA, OR,
FOR THAT MATTER, IN NHA TRANG.
TEARE
MARTIN

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